

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00168 01 OF 02 041758Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /075 W
-----041802Z 060293 /43

O R 041700Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5693
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 0168

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SF, RH
SUBJ: STATEMENT BY IAN SMITH AT FEB 4 PRESS CONFERENCE

1. FOLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT READ BY IAN SMITH AT OPENING
OF PRESS CONFERENCE HELD FEBRUARY 4:

QUOTE I WOULD LIKE TO START BY REFERRING TO THE
REMARKS PASSED BY THE NEW UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF
STATE, MR. VANCE, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY. HE
SAID THAT WE COULD NOT COUNT ON ANY FORM OF AMERICAN
ASSISTANCE IN OUR EFFORT TO PREVENT MAJORITY RULE IN
RHODESIA. I WOULD REMIND MR. VANCE OF THE COMMITMENT I
GAVE HIS PREDECESSOR ON SEPTEMBER 24 LAST YEAR WHEN I
ACCEPTED THE FIVE PROPOSALS PUT TO ME BY DR. KISSINGER.
THE FIRST OF THOSE POINTS READS, "RHODESIA AGREED TO
MAJORITY RULE WITHIN TWO YEARS." I STAND BY THAT
DECLARATION TODAY JUST AS I STAND BY THE REMAINDER OF
THAT AGREEMENT. I WOULD ASK MR. VANCE ONE SIMPLE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00168 01 OF 02 041758Z

QUESTION -- WHO HAS ACCEPTED THE KISSINGER PROPOSALS
AND WHO HAS REJECTED THEM?

QUOTE IN TERMS OF MY AGREEMENT WITH DR. KISSINGER
THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED IN
RHODESIA WITHIN A MATTER OF WEEKS AND THE LEGAL AND

CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES NECESSARY FOR AN ORDERLY MOVE TO MAJORITY RULE SHOULD BY NOW HAVE BEEN WELL UNDER WAY. INSTEAD, FOUR MONTHS HAVE PASSED AND NO PROGRESS WHATEVER HAS BEEN MADE. THE BLAME LIES FAIRLY AND SQUARELY ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. AT FIRST THEY APPLAUDED AND WELCOMED MY STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 24 AND MY ACCEPTANCE OF THE ANGOLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS, BUT FROM THE MOMENT THE FIRST OPPOSITION WAS VOICED BY THE BLACK PRESIDENTS, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE BACKED DOWN, STEP BY STEP, TO THE DEMANDS OF THE PATROTIC FRONT AND TO THE PRESSURES OF THE BLACK PRESIDENTS. THIS IS CLEARLY SEEN IN THE LATEST BRITISH PROPOSALS WHICH IN ALL ESSENTIAL ASPECTS ARE IN FACT THOSE OF THE PATROITIC FRONT. LET ME REITERATE THAT WE REJECTED THOSE PROPOSALS FOR TOW MAIN REASONS; FIRSTLY, BECAUSE ALL THE SAFEGUARDS CONTAINED IN THE ORIGINAL ANGOLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS HAD BEEN REMOVED; AND SECONDLY, BECAUSE THE NEW PROPOSALS WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF HANDLING OVER THE CONTROL OF OUR COUNTRY TO THE EXTERNALLY BASED TERRORIST LEADERS, WHO HAVE BEEN NOMINATED BY THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH THE TRUE LEADERS OF RHODESIA, DEMOCRATICALLY CHOSEN BY THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE.

QUOTE I WOULD SAY THIS TO MR. VANCE. WE SEEK NO AMERICAN AID IN DELAYING THE ADVENT OF MAJORITY RULE, BECAUSE IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO DELAY IT. WHAT WE DO ASK -- AND I BELIEVE THAT WE ARE ENTITLED TO ASK -- IS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SHOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE TO EHLP US ENSURE THAT THE SETTLEMENT WE SEEK UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00168 01 OF 02 041758Z

WILL NOT PUT INTO POWER TERRORISTS WHO, WITHOUT ANY SHADOW OF DOUBT, RE THE TOOLS OF RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM AND WHO SAY QUITE OPENLY THAT THEY INTEND TO TAKE RHODESIA THROUGH THE BARREL OF THE GUN. IF THEY WERE PERMITTED TO DO SO, THIS WOULD BE A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE WHOLE OF THE FREE WORLD. FOR OUR PART WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF HANDLING OVER OUR COUNTRY TO THIS BLACK MINORITY AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO SEEK AGREEMENT WITH LEADERS ACCEPTABLE TO THE BROAD MASS OF OUR BLACK RHODESIAN PEOPLE.

QUOTE THERE IS ANOTHER POINT WHICH BEARS REPETITION AND THAT IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE CHANGE THEIR POSITION SINCE MY BROADCAST OF SEPTEMBER 24. THE KISSINGER PROPOSALS WERE BASED CLOSELY ON A DISCUSSION PAPER PRODUCED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT. ALL THE IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES OF THE BRITISH PAPER WERE INCLUDED. FURTHERMORE, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WERE KEPT FULLY IN THE PICTURE THROUGHOUT DR. KISSINGER'S

TRAVELS IN AFRICA -- THEY HAD A LIAISON OFFICER IN
DR. KISSINGER'S PARTY. THEIR OWN STATEMENT ISSUED
IMMEDIATELY AFTER MY BROADCAST CONFIRMED THEIR COMMITMENT
TO THE PROPOSALS. REGRETTABLY, HOWEVER, THEY BEGAN TO
BACK AWAY FROM THE AGREEMENT AS SOON AS THE AFRICANS
VOICED THEIR OPPOSITION. AT GENEVA THE CHAIRMAN ALLOWED
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO DOMINATE THE PROCEEDINGS AND DICTATE
THE TACTICS FROM THE OUTSET AND HE MADE NO REAL ATTEMPT TO
GAIN THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS. LET ME
REMIND YOU THAT DR. KISSINGER PUT THEM TO ME ON A "TAKE
IT OR LEAVE IT" BASIS -- I HAD TO ACCEPT THEM IN THEIR
ENTIRETY OR REJECT THEM -- BUT NO SUCH PRESSURE WAS APPLIED
TO THE AFRICANS. THEY WERE INVITED TO GENEVA BY THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT AND WERE
ENCOURAGED TO PUT FORWARD THEIR OWN PROPOSALS OF AN
ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CHARACTER.
BOWDLER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00168 02 OF 02 041822Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /075 W
-----041823Z 060566 /43

O R 041700Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5694
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 0168

QUOTE THE HOSTILE REACTION OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT
TO ANY SUGGESTIONS OF AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN
RHODES IS OUT OF KEEPING WITH THEIR EARLIER
ENCOURAGEMENT OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT. I CAN ONLY CONCLUDE
THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BECOME COMPLETELY
BEHOLDEN TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, THAT UNHOLY ALLIANCE
OF TERRORISTS, AND TO THE BLACK PRESIDENTS WHO GIVE
THEM THEIR ORDERS. MR. RICHARD TOLD US QUITE OPENLY

THAT IN HIS VIEW THE ONLY VIABLE SETTLEMENT WOULD BE ONE
ACCEPTABLE TO THE BLACK PRESIDENTS. FOR THIS REASON,
MR. RICHARD AND HIS POLITICAL MASTERS ARE DOING EVERYTHING
THEY CAN TO DISSUADE BLACK RHODESIANS FROM HOLDING INTERNAL
DISCUSSIONS WITH MY GOVERNMENT. COULD THERE BE ANY
GREATER INDICATION OF THEIR CYNICAL DISREGARD FOR THE
REAL VIEWS OF THE MILLIONS OF BLACK RHODESIANS WHO DO
NOT REGARD THE TERRORIST LEADERS AS THEIR SPOKESMAN? UNQUOTE

2. FOLLOWING IS LIST OF POINTS MADE BY SMITH IN ANSER
TO QUESTIONS:
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00168 02 OF 02 041822Z

(A) HE APPEALED TO THE UNITED STATES TO MAKE
CONTACT WITH RHODESIANS WITHIN RHODESIA AND TO COME AND
SEE THINGS FOR THEMSELVES. HE HOPED THAT WHAT HAD BEEN
ACHIEVED WITH KISSINGER AND SCHAUFELLE COULD BE BUILT UPON.

(B) LEGISLATION WAS BEING PREPARED FOR NEXT SITTING
OF PARLIAMENT IN REGARD TO REMOVAL OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

(C) RHODESIA CAN GO ON INDEFINITELY FIGHTING
THE TERRORIST WAR.

(D) SOME PROGRESS HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED TOWARDS
AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT BUT TALKS WITH BLACK RHODESIANS
CONTINUE.

(E) ON QUESTION OF HARD ATTITUDE ADOPTED BY NEW US
ADMINISTRATION PM SAID IT WAS PROBABLY LACK OF EXPERIENCE,
E.G. YOUNG/VANCE CONTRADICTIONS AND WE MUST GIVE NEW
GOVERNMENT TIME TO SETTLE DOWN.

(F) INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WILL FRUSTRATE RUSSIAN
INTENTIONS FOR RHODESIA BUT WILL NOT STOP TERRORISM
IMMEDIATELY. HOWEVER IT WILL ULTIMATELY HELP TO DRY UP
TERRORIST RECRUITMENT.

(G) ONCE WEST PRESENTED WITH FACT ACCOMPLISHED AND
MAJORITY OF BLACK RHODESIANS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR WILL
THEN WEST WILL HAVE TIME TO THINK AGAIN.

(H) CONSULTATION WITH BLACK RHODESIANS GOING ON AT
PRESENT ON HOW BEST TO ORGANISE A TEST OF OPINION.

(I) INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WILL REDUCE UNCERTAINTY
WHICH WILL STEM EMIGRATION. GOVERNMENT CONCERNED ABOUT
EMIGRATION BUT MOST RHODESIANS STEADFAST AND PROBLEM
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00168 02 OF 02 041822Z

WILL BE OVERCOME.
BOWDLER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAPET00168
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770041-0115
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770291/aaaafwok.tel
Line Count: 235
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: fd4a9cce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3456898
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 970908
Subject: STATEMENT BY IAN SMITH AT FEB 4 PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, RH, SF, US, (SMITH, IAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fd4a9cce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009